

There is tonic in the things that men do not love to hear; and there is damnation in the things that wicked men love to hear. Free speech is to a great people what winds are to the ocean and malaria regions, which waft away the elements of disease, and bring new elements of health; and where free speech is stopped miasma is bred, and death comes fast.—Henry Ward Beecher.

## THE PARAMOUNT ISSUE

Rome's Incessant War on Democratic Principles Marks Her as a Menace to American Freedom—Free Institutions Must Be Kept Free—Political Romanism to be Forced Into Open by Campaign of Publicity and Patriotic Use of the Ballot

By B. O. FLOWER, President Free Press Defense League.

THIS week we wish to impress on every patriot the importance of forcing Rome to meet the issue. Always when an attempt is made to show how Rome is warring against our democratic principles and the bulwarks of free institutions the wily Jesuit seeks to evade the issue or promptly raises the cry of religious prejudice, bigotry, intolerance and persecution. This subterfuge has been overworked, it must be stopped.

It is our duty from today onward to force the real issue to the front and compel Rome to meet it.

### War On No Man Loyal to Free Institutions

We war on no man and on no organization so long as that man or that organization loyally accepts and defends the free democracy of the author of the Declaration of Independence and the Revolutionary fathers. On the other hand when any man or organization with the Judas kiss on Democracy's lips betrays her by working for the opposing theories—the time honored theories of the papal sovereignty on the Tiber, then imperiled freedom summons every man worthy of this great Republic to forget self and self interest and enlist in the mighty struggle for the preservation of free democracy in its glory and its integrity.

It is therefore, all important that the real issue be clearly understood, steadfastly maintained and that every attempt on the part of Rome to sidetrack it be promptly resisted until the American people see precisely the subversive character of a campaign being waged by the hierarchy in the interest of the so-called "infallible theories" which the last three popes of Rome have set forth in their *ex cathedra* utterances condemning fundamental democracy and the bulwarks of free institutions. We are engaged in the noblest battle that has been waged in the high cause of liberty, progress and human happiness since the advent of popular government. This is a bold claim that may well challenge our serious attention. Let us consider the facts:

The Declaration of Independence was the people's great Magna Charta. It thrilled and electrified the weary heart of earth's oppressed millions, while striking terror to the upholders of class rule and every other form of despotism. It was the clarion call of democracy that ushered in the new day of man.

It declared for the sovereignty of the people in the place of the autocratic rule of vice-kings and oppressive thrones, aristocracies, and hierarchies. It boldly demanded in the name of humanity and advancing civilization, a new ideal of government in which no king or pope claiming to rule by divine right or to represent Almighty God on earth, but the people should be recognized as the responsible government.

### Distinguishing Glories of the New Order

The great declaration was followed by our Constitution and the blossoming of the democratic theory of government into a realized fact. Now what besides the SOVEREIGNTY OF THE PEOPLE were the distinguishing glories of the new order?

1. Freedom of worship for all, or religious emancipation.
2. Freedom of speech, press, and assembly for the bulwarking and preservation of democracy.
3. The absolute divorce of church and state, that persecution and intolerance should cease to curse mankind.
4. A system of public free education, untainted by theological creeds or dogmas, that would foster intellectual hospitality, discourage racial and creedal hate and intolerance, and thus promote the true brotherhood of man.

In this bold and splendid governmental innovation the Master Builders of this Democratic Republic gave to the new nation a priceless heritage which not only made it the lode star for the oppressed of every land but the mightiest moral governmental force of modern times, and the greatest Republic known to history.

Not only was this new theory of government in opposition to that of the monarchies and aristocracies of the old world, but it was in direct and positive opposition to the historic attitude, the theory and the practice of the Roman Catholic hierarchy which, throughout her long, dark and bloody history, has resolutely combated EVERY ONE of these great and fundamental theories of our government.

But today in America and strictly for American consumption it is being urged that Rome—whose proud boast has been that she never changes—has changed and is now reconciled to our democratic theory. This assertion is so important that it is necessary to inquire who makes the claim that the papacy, or supreme and binding authority of the Roman church, no longer condemns popular sovereignty, the divorce of church and state, freedom of thought and speech and our public school system.

### Papal Condemnation of Democracy

The popes, in the absence of the church councils, are THE ONLY PERSONS who can speak for the Roman Catholic church, or whose words are "infallible, irrefragable" and binding upon all loyal Roman Catholics; hence if these claims have any weight whatever, they must have behind them the positive declarations of the popes; but one searches in vain throughout the syllabus of Pius IX and the encyclicals of Leo XIII and Pius X, for any warrant for these claims which American political Romanists are so actively disseminating—claims which we are reluctantly forced to believe are being deliberately circulated for the purpose of deceiving our people, because, as a matter of fact, they are in direct opposition to the present day teachings of the church of Rome as given by her last three popes.

An examination of the *ex cathedra* and therefore, to loyal Catholics, infallible utterances of Pius IX, Leo XIII and Pius X show that these three great popes specifically upheld the traditional theory of the Roman Catholic church and condemned as contrary to its teachings each of the above named distinguishing glories of our democracy, even POPULAR SOVEREIGNTY, the bed-rock of our democratic government IS CONDEMNED by Leo XIII and Pius X, the last two, so-called infallible, heads of the Roman church.

Their utterances on this point are so vital and fundamental that a word on this subject and a few lines from papal utterances will help us to understand how bridgeless is the chasm between the papacy and democracy. Leo XIII, in one of his encyclicals, says, "We hold upon the earth the place of God Almighty." Hence, when a pope denounces democracy or popular sovereignty on the ground that the right of governing comes from God, "as its natural and necessary principle," he either upholds his own authority as supreme over that of the people or he upholds the divine right of kings, and with this fact in mind, we invite the readers attention to the following condemnation of democracy or popular sovereignty by the last two popes as found in the encyclical letter of Pope Pius X written to the Archbishop and Bishops of France condemning *le Sillon* and dated August 25, 1910:

"Our predecessor... taught that Christian democracy ought to maintain the DIVERSITY OF CLASSES, which is surely A FITTING CHARACTERISTIC

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Priest Furniss has written a book that is authorized by the Roman church. This is the sort of book the Jesuits would use in our public schools if they had a chance. A brief extract goes as follows: "Perhaps at this moment, 7 o'clock in the evening, a child is just going to Hell. Tomorrow at 7 o'clock in the evening, go and knock at the gates of Hell and ask what the child is doing. The devils will go and look. Then they will come back again and say the child is burning. Go in a week later and ask what the child is doing. You will get the same answer—it is burning. Go in a year later and ask; the same answer comes—it is burning. Go in a million years later and ask the same question; the answer is just the same it is burning. So if you go forever and forever you will always get the same answer, 'It is burning in the fire!'" And Priest Furniss of the Tablet asks, "Are the days of reading good Catholic books passing away?" We hope so!

The Kentucky Irish American blusteringly declares that President Wilson will have to answer for whatever happens in Mexico because of his recognizing Carranza. The real force under this anti-Wilson paper eruption is the fact that Mexico's meddling priest politicians are now answering for their deeds when their pretensions were recognized and endorsed by the Mexican people.

### An Editor's Congratulation

Baltimore, Md., January 17th, 1916.  
To the Editors and Proprietors of The Menace, Chicago.

Allow me to extend my heartiest congratulations in the legal victory you have gained over that insidious foe, the Roman church, that would destroy the bulwarks of American institutions, by depriving the Press of its liberty.

I have expressed my gratification at the verdict that was given you by the jury that heard your case, in the paper of which I am the editor, but I felt that it was due you to say it in a personal letter, so that I would not be hidden behind an editorial "we."

I have often been told that the statements made in *The Menace* were overdrawn, extravagant and untrue, and that the menacing situations and conditions then published from time to time were the results of bias, misjudgment, and misstatement. I have been reading *The Menace* for a long time, and several times I have put certain strong statements to the test of a personal investigation, and in every case the test has proved the truth of the stories that you have published.

Go on with the good work. You have a number of poor imitators, and many detractors, but you are in the right; you have the courage to tell the truth; Rome is burning. You can live, and, finally, and threaten, but the day will come when even the unsupporting will open their eyes to the truth, as you see it, and when that day comes, Rome will have more reason to howl than now. Very truly yours,  
F. T. TAGG,  
Editor The Methodist Protestant.

# THE MENACE

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## HON. THOMAS E. WATSON

A Commanding Figure of National Interest—An Informal Chat About the Man Rome is Striving to Destroy—His Early Life, Public Life, Contributions to Literature, His Position and Purpose—The Man Against Whom Rome is Now Hurling her Hatred

THE persistent hounding of Thomas E. Watson by the United States Government since political Romanism instigated his prosecution is one of the most shameful and humiliating outrages that has disgraced our history during the past fifty years. The man, his high service to the cause of clean and honest politics, his passionate devotion to the cause of the people in their battle against organized greed; his important contributions to our literature and his outspoken attacks on the dangerous and subversive foreign theory of government which has already played the democracy of Jefferson in deadly peril, makes him at once one of the most interesting figures in public life and the very last man a free government should seek to strike down.

The very fact that he is being relentlessly pursued by our government since the American Federation of Catholic Societies undertook to force the Department of Justice to convict him for exposing the obscene character of the questions which the greatest Roman Catholic religious authority prescribes for priests to ask women in the confessional, proves that the civilization blighting hand of Rome and not the genius of the free democracy of Jefferson is the dominating spirit in instigating this shameful action.

Rome's hatred of freedom of religious discussion has left a trail of flame, blood and darkness throughout the historic past whenever she has had the power to throttle freedom and slay the apostles of liberty and progress. The present persecution of Mr. Watson is merely a startling twentieth century illustration of the fact that Rome's oft repeated boast that she never changes, is true in so far as her hatred of freedom of speech and of press is concerned. Here we see flaming forth the same deadly intolerance of the dark and bloody days when Rome was dominant in many lands and when all who dared to criticize her were hounded by subservient governments and by the Inquisition. This example of the implacable hatred of Rome should arouse to instant action every man and woman worthy of our free Republic as the sound of an alarm bell at midnight. Although for many years Mr. Watson has enjoyed a national reputation as statesman, author and editor he is now the center of the newly awakened interest of millions of people owing to recent phases in the relentless persecution of the brilliant southern statesman and author by Rome and the public authorities at her instigation, hence a pen picture of the man is timely and will appeal to the millions of MENACE readers.

### Tom Watson's Early Life

Thomas E. Watson's ancestors on both sides were Quakers who settled in Georgia about 1750 and at the time of the war his father was a slave holding planter in comfortable circumstances. The elder Watson enlisted in the southern army and was severely wounded three times during the war. At its close the family was utterly without resources and in common with tens of thousands of other Confederate citizens encountered years of fierce struggle with poverty and it was under such environment that Tom Watson began his heroic efforts to secure an education—a struggle which strikingly suggests Abraham Lincoln's boyhood battle for knowledge. No sacrifice was too great to attain this coveted prize and with the true pioneer American spirit the boy fought to gain the knowledge that should be within the reach of every child in a free Republic.

On one occasion he was forced to sell some treasured books he had received as a gift from his father, another time he was compelled to part with a silver cup, an heirloom, in order to buy garments to clothe his nakedness. Under such circumstances his education was acquired. He made his way through the high school of Thomson, Georgia, after which he entered Mercer University but for lack of funds was not able to complete his education there. Later while teaching school he spent his nights reading law and still later entered the office of Judge W. R. McLaws where he studiously pursued his legal studies until he was admitted to the bar in 1875.

### In Public Life

In 1882 while a member of the Georgia Legislature he made a fine record in fighting the people's battles and as a champion of the cause of temperance. He was selected to close the debate in the legislature for local option following one of the most bitter state and legislative contests. The measure was passed and through this law whiskey was banished from four-fifths of the counties of Georgia.

In 1891-3 he was in our National House of Representatives where he made a splendid record becoming one of the most eloquent and convincing tribunes of the people in the great popular renaissance of the early nineties. One of the measures he made especially his own was the rural free delivery of mails and it was through his masterly advocacy that the first appropriation for this purpose was voted by congress. He has been justly termed the father of the American rural postal service. He was one of the most eloquent advocates of the eight hour law and led a successful fight to compel the railroads to put automatic couplers on their freight cars. This battle for saving the lives of railway workers was won in the face of a determined and aggressive opposition of the powerful railroad lobby.

These things are merely typical of Mr. Watson's tireless service in the interests of the people, of humane legislation and of clean and just government which marked his congressional activities. And what is true of his service in the House of Representatives is equally true of his whole political career. From first to last he has resolutely championed the people's cause in the mighty struggle against the political grafters and the union of the political machines with privilege seeking classes for the plunder of the people and the control of government.

In 1896 Mr. Watson was nominated for Vice President by the People's party and ran on that ticket with Mr. Bryan as the presidential nominee and in 1904 he was the presidential candidate on the People's party ticket.

Mr. Watson is a man of intense nature, a passionate lover of the democracy of Jefferson and the fathers. To him the man who openly or under cover seeks to destroy the FREEDOM OF SPEECH, PRESS and ASSEMBLY and our PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM or who seeks to substitute the reactionary system of papal rule for the government of the fathers is a traitor to our Republic and does not merit political preferment even though he comes with the blessing of a foreign potentate in one hand and a solid and subservient role in the other. Readers, how does Mr. Watson's position on this vital issue strike you? Is it not sound in theory and practice? Are you not, as a lover of our free institutions, ready to endorse his position on this question? If so, in this respect you are standing side by side with Washington, Franklin, Jefferson and Lincoln as well as with all the other great champions of our free fundamental democracy; but, such a stand taken today, since politico-ecclesiastical Romanism has become active in our public life, will earn for

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## CHICAGO'S INQUISITION USES BOYCOTT

Hotel Induced to Repudiate Contract and Oust Tenants Whose Only Offense Consisted of Determined Efforts in Defense of the Public Schools—Circulars Entitled, "Save the Public Schools" Mailed from Hotel LaSalle the Basis for Inquisitional Activity

Is the Roman Catholic church a menace to American institutions? Is the Roman Catholic church trying to prevent popular education and destroy the public schools? Is the Roman Inquisition dead, or is it yet actively engaged in violent opposition to progressive people and principles?

The answer to these closely related and profoundly pertinent questions may be found in the self explanatory sworn statement which follows:

**Feared Roman Catholic Boycott**  
FOR FIVE YEARS the WOMAN'S PARTY OF COOK COUNTY held its public meetings in the Hotel LaSalle, and it was looked for meetings and headquarters in the hotel until June, 1914, on a basis that was satisfactory to the organization and to the hotel. This booking was done by the vice-president, who is also manager of the hotel.

Recently, Circular No. 2 of "Save the Public Schools" was issued by the American Public School Federation. As the sentiments of that circular coincide with Plank 17 of our platform, we felt it our duty to do our share in its distribution. We stamped quite a number of these circulars with our headquarters address that those in favor of the public schools might know where to get more of them. After several thousand of them had gone out to the public, we received notice from the management of the Hotel LaSalle that we would have to move. We were notified that if we did not move at a certain date our rent would be FIVE TIMES as much for every additional day. This came like a thunderbolt from a clear sky. I, with another officer of the Woman's Party of Cook County, went to see the vice-president and manager of the hotel and asked for the reason for this sudden order to vacate our headquarters. We were told that he needed the room. We said that is not true and wanted to know the REAL TRUTH. We were then told that delegations from several Catholic organizations had called on him and complained about "Save the Public Schools" circulars; that letters had been received from Catholic traveling men, one of which was shown to us with a circular attached, and that these people and other Catholic delegations had virtually threatened to BOYCOTT the hotel and withdraw their business. So the Woman's Party of Cook County would have to get OUT! We suggested that the hotel remain NEUTRAL, but they did not seem able or willing to do it.

Another officer and another member of the Woman's Party of Cook County then called together upon the vice-president of the Hotel LaSalle to talk further in regard to this matter. Two attorneys representing a patriotic organization also called together to see the vice-president on the same mission. These people stated that it was finally admitted to them that the reason for asking the Woman's Party of Cook County to move was the FEAR of the ROMAN CATHOLIC BOYCOTT.

CHARLOTTE C. RHODES, STATE OF ILLINOIS, County of Cook—  
Before me, a Notary Public for and in the County aforesaid, State of Ill., appeared Charlotte C. Rhodes, of Chicago, Illinois, personally known to me, and upon her oath she states that she is the President of the Woman's Party of Cook County and that the foregoing statement is true, and that she subscribed to the same this 6th day of December, 1915, at Chicago, Illinois.

S. E. DAUMAN, Notary Public, S. E. DAUMAN, Notarial Seal, Cook Co., Ill.  
The meaning of the hostility displayed toward these patriotic ob-

jects of Romish hatred is further explained by the following resolutions adopted by the Woman's Party of Cook County in mass meeting:

**Woman's Party Boycotted**  
WHEREAS: The Woman's Party of Cook County has, by plank 17 in its platform and in other ways, openly, publicly and steadfastly stood FOR the public schools and AGAINST the policy of placing on the school board any supporters of ANY institution which OPPOSES our public school system and has OPPOSED the use of public money for the support of private, sectarian or parochial schools; and

WHEREAS: In the pursuit of this policy, the Woman's Party of Cook County, from its headquarters in the Hotel LaSalle assisted in the distribution of the circular issued by the American Public School Federation, entitled "SAVE THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS"; and

WHEREAS: Delegations from Roman Catholic organizations called upon and intimidated the management of the Hotel LaSalle and led the hotel management to believe that the hotel would be BOYCOTTED by all Roman Catholics unless the Woman's Party of Cook County was forced out of its headquarters in the hotel where it had been for several years; and

WHEREAS: The hotel at once notified the Woman's Party of Cook County that it MUST GET OUT! Now therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the Woman's Party of Cook County in meeting assembly call upon ALL FRIENDS OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOL to RESIST in what ever lawful way they can both this ROMAN CATHOLIC BOYCOTT and the action of the Hotel LaSalle in this matter, and issues this resolution as a PROTEST and to GIVE NOTICE TO THE WORLD of the un-American methods used and of the TERROR inspired in business men by these ENEMIES of our public schools. Endorsed UNANIMOUSLY at a meeting of the members of the Woman's Party of Cook County held on December 3, 1915, in Room 308, Masonic Temple.

**What the Woman's Party Is**  
The Woman's Party of Cook County, Illinois, is, as its name indicates, an association of sincere and representative women for the purpose of securing suffrage for women and the best possible living and working conditions for all the people. Such is its own statement of principle, and its activities are consistent with that declaration.

Reference is made in the foregoing resolutions to Plank 17 of the Woman's Party platform. Since it was this particular plank which aroused the wrath of Chicago papists, it is here given in full:

We oppose the use of public money for the support of private or sectarian schools; we favor the use of schoolhouses, free of charge, for the discussion of public questions and for amusements. We are in favor of a school board which shall be composed of men and women chosen solely on account of their fitness and who have the welfare of the public schools at heart, and none of whom are supporters of an institution which opposes our public school system.

Plank 17 is the red rag that started Rome on the rampage. To oppose the use of public money for private or sectarian purposes is an affront such as Rome cannot pardon but must punish. To favor school-boards and teachers who believe in the public school system to the exclusion of those who do not favor